Crisis of drinking water

†*419. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crisis of drinking water has assumed serious proportion in the metropolitan cities/cities/towns/densely populated areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government are taking to provide adequate quantity of water in the summer season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Urban Water supply is a State subject. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the respective State Government/Urban Local Bodies to plan, formulate, execute, operate and maintain water supply facilities in their respective areas and to make adequate provision in their respective State Plans. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments through policy formulation, technical guidance, etc. for provision of drinking water facilities. It is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) since 1993-94 for providing water supply facilities in smaller towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census under which funds are provided by Centre and States on 50:50 basis. Under this Programme, water supply schemes for 660 towns have been approved till 31.3.2002 at an estimated cost of Rs. 829.33 crores and an amount of Rs. 360.57 crores released to States as Central share.

As regards coverage of urban population with drinking water supply facilities information furnished by different State

† Original notice of the question was recieved in Hindi.

implementing agencies indicates that about 89% of the urban population is reported to have access to water supply facilities as on 31.3.2000. The quality and quantity of water in most of the urban areas is not as per norms. Drinking water crisis also occurs at times in various towns and cities owing to a multitude of factors such as huge resource gap for investment in water sector, poor distribution system, excessive unaccounted for water (UFW), depletion of ground water resources and poor operation and management of water utilities by Urban Local Bodies.

Government of India is making efforts to facilitate reform by the Urban Local Bodies to enable them to access funds required for meeting the water supply needs as well as ensure improved operation and maintenance of water utilities and improved delivery of water supply services through policy level instrument of City Challenge Fund and Pooled Finance Development Fund. It is also advocating the States to make rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye laws.

Study on Average Fertility Rates

*420. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the average fertility rate in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any States have launched the two-child norm, if so, the details thereof;

(d) the existing average fertility rate at national level and whether Government would consider adopting any specific approach to slow down the population growth;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government propose to move any Bill on the above subject; and